(b) and (c) As on November 21, 2001, the vacancies in the Supreme Court and the High Courts are as below:

Supreme Court	—	1
High Courts	—	170 (including 47 new posts)

(d) The procedure for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts as well as transfer of a Judge, including Chief Justice from one High Court to another, has been laid down in the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998. Government has been addressing letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to make recommendations for appointment of Judges in the High Courts with a view to filling up vacancies expeditiously.

Non-Payment of dividends to shareholders

849. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of profit making companies are suspected to be faulty in the payment of dividends to shareholders;

(b) if so, who is responsible for the unchecked irregularities; and

(c) the steps Government propose to streamline the procedure to avoid recurrence of such lapses in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITELY): (a) to (c) If any company fails to pay dividend after its declaration, the company and its directors can be prosecuted under section 205A and 207 of the Companies Act, 1956 by the Department of Company Affairs, when it comes to the Department's notice.

Fast Track Courts

850. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Fast Track Courts have started functioning throughout the country;

(b) the number of courts alongwith classification therefore, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the inordinate delay in starting the Fast Track Courts; and